

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 10907 011420Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /069 W

-----024420 011947Z /61

R 011407Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5728

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

UNCLAS LONDON 10907

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV UK

SUBJECT: SNP TO CHALLENGE CALLAGHAN

1. THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (SNP) PLANS TO INTRODUCE A MOTION IN PARLIAMENT JULY 4 TO REDUCE PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S SALARY. THIS IS A PROCEDURAL MEANS SHORT OF A CENSURE MOTION TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT, AND IT WILL BE DEBATED AND VOTED UPON THE DAY IT IS INTRODUCED. ACCORDING TO SNP SPOKESMEN, THEY HAVE TAKEN THIS STEP IN PROTEST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO DEVOLVE POWER TO ELECTED ASSEMBLIES IN SCOTLAND AND WALES. THE GOVERNMENT, OF COURSE, IS EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE A NEW DEVOLUTION BILL IN NOVEMBER.
2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS. THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND THE WELSH NATIONALIST PARTY, PLAID CYMRU, WILL JOIN THE SNP IN SUPPORTING THE MOTION.
3. COMMENT: IF APPROVED. THIS MOTION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO PUT DOWN A CONFIDENCE MOTION. ANY CHANCE OF THE SNP MOTION CARRYING, HOWEVER, IS REMOTE. THE THREE PARTIES EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 10907 011420Z

MOTION HAVE 293 SEATS BETWEEN THEM, COMPARED TO 326 FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS ALLIES. THE POSITION OF THE 10-MEMBER ULSTER UNIONIST BLOC IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO AFFECT THE OUTCOME. THE SNP EVIDENTLY BELIEVES SOME POLITICAL MILEAGE CAN BE GAINED FROM THIS MANEUVER. GIVEN, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO HONOR ITS DEVOLUTION PLEDGE AND THE

NEAR CERTAINTY THAT THE MOTION WILL FAIL, THIS SORT OF
EMPTY GESTURE POLITICS SEEMS MORE LIKELY TO PRODUCE
RIDICULE FOR THE SNP THAN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE.

BREWSTER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON10907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770235-1178
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770798/aaaadhqf.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08e77f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1986093
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SNP TO CHALLENGE CALLAGHAN
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08e77f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009